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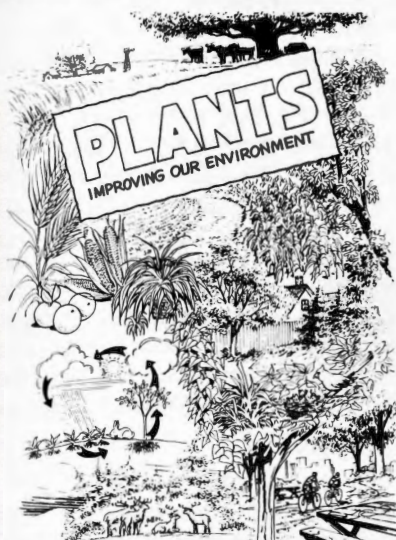
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SCIENCE NOTES

Soil Conservation Society of America Releases New Educational Booklet on Plants

The Soil Conservation Society of America has added an information-packed cartoon booklet titled "Plants: Improving Our Environment," to its series of conservation education units.



The new booklet and accompanying teacher's guide examine how important plants are to the environment. The materials cover four main concepts: (1) Green plants supply humans and other animals with food (energy), oxygen, shelter and water. (2) Green plants are the only living things able to use the sun's energy to produce their own food. (3) There are many different kinds of green plants. (4) Growing and conserving green plants is necessary to maintain a quality environment.

Children reading the booklet will discover how plants are used for pollution abatement, soil conservation, beautification, building materials, fuel, medicine, flavoring and other purposes.

Granted three wishes by a comical, rhyme-speaking genie, skateboard enthusiasts and main characters, Sylvia and George, visit an urban forester, a farmer and a naturalist at a nature center in the story.

The file-folder format teacher's guide supplies background information, sources of additional information, four activity masters, and 19 math, language arts, social studies and science activities. The activities reinforce and extend the educational concepts and allow teachers to evaluate student progress.

Although the booklet carries a 1987 copyright, teachers will want to note the use of the old kingdom classification scheme in which algae and fungi are considered plants.

Single copies of "Plants: Improving Our Environment" are 75 cents. The teacher's guide is \$2. Substantial discounts as low as 12 cents per booklet and \$1.50 per guide are available on quantity purchases. For a free brochure describing all of SCSA's educational materials, write SCSA, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021; or phone (515) 289-2331.

— C.W.B.